

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Group Art Unit : 3765
Application No. 10/817,394
Filed: 4/2/2004
Attorney Docket No.: 1293-2U

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-19 and 21 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

Claims 1-19: Cancelled.

Claim 20: (Currently Amended): A clothing strap tensioning device, comprising:
an elastic member having a geometry generally defined by substantially coplanar middle, left end, and right end portions, and bounded by upper, lower, left and right edges, and wherein the upper edges sloping slopes upwardly from the middle portion of the elastic member toward the left and right end portions thereof; and wherein the lower edge slopes upwardly from the middle portion of the elastic member toward the left and right end portions thereof; and
means integrated into the left end and right end portions for enabling releasable attachment of the end portions to each other to form the elastic member into a loop; and
wherein said left and right end portion of the elastic member projecting upwardly away from said middle portion, and wherein, upon securing the tensioning device about the spaced-apart clothing straps, the clothing straps are drawn inwardly toward each other medially in a manner preventing twisting of the straps.

Claim 21: Cancelled.